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WOE UNTO THEM - - -

that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place that one may be placed alone in the midst of the earth! (Isaiah 5:8) This warning is beginning to have real meaning in present day America. And the modern way to avoid that woe is to establish "green belts".

Although you can't wear green belts, they are practical as well as enjoyable things to have around you. This fact is gaining more widespread recognition as urbanization pushes forward across the landscape.

The ever-increasing need for scenic breathing space between crowded, civilized developments is not a new idea, but recognition of its merit by businessmen comes as a real joy to the nature conservationist. An article by Ronald Campbell in THE COMMONWEALTH, journal of the Commonwealth Club of California, for March 18, written from the viewpoint of the real estate developer, suggests the possibility of zoning to preserve a precious small portion of bay area California farm land from urbanization. Many Californians, says Mr. Campbell, who is a county planner and community developer, feel that the best use of certain tracts of land in the San Francisco Bay area is to look at them.

Mr. Campbell believes that green belt laws "won't work unless the land is permanently--or semi-permanently covenanted." He indicates that at least 50 years as a "green belt" is a minimum. Otherwise, builders who are beginning to make use of the more-expensive-to-develop, hillside home sites will be caught short when former green belt land suddenly becomes available to competitors for building at much lower construction costs.

Some 3,000 miles to the east, Roland B. Greeley, a member of the firm of Adams, Howard and Greeley, city planning consultants, suggests in a letter to the editor of the LEXINGTON (Mass.) MINUTE MAN that economic profit could result from the town of Lexington setting aside "something like 2,000 acres of undeveloped land" (in the town of 10,000 acres.) He points out that most newcomers to the town come "because they like, among other things, its 'rural atmosphere', its open lands and freedom from urban character." Yet this openness is disappearing. Mr. Greeley shows that the cost above tax revenues of maintaining community facilities for the houses that would occupy the 2,000 acres would be more than the purchase price of the land for open space. And he says that if a generation hence we find we don't want such land, we could likely sell it at a profit. But, "personally I doubt if we would be willing to dispose of it at any price in the future."

In these and other ways, all too small unfortunately, public attention is being focused on a matter of vital importance. How about your community? If it is sprawling over the countryside, as are so many others, your voice may help to bring needed action before the last acre is developed.

OUR NATIONAL FLOWER

"The concrete clover leaf is becoming our national flower!" So said Lewis Mumford, Professor of City and Land Planning at the University of Pennsylvania, as quoted in the June, 1957 issue of RECREATION. In an article entitled, "The Loss of Local Park Lands to Highway Planning," D. Donaldson points out that the new 42,000 mile interstate highway will take some two million acres of land -- two-thirds of it crossing the nation "where no highways now exist."

The effect of the new federal highway program on natural areas was indicated in the December NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS. Pointing out the comparable effect on parks in various parts of the country, Mr. Donaldson says, "In Montgomery County, Maryland, an expressway is cutting through one side of a golf course. In Lincoln, Nebraska, a four-lane highway is going through one of the main public parks. A proposal in New York City to route through traffic via Washington Square Park, has aroused acute controversy in that city." Mr. Donaldson concludes that, "the best way to stop encroachment on recreation and park lands is through an informed public."

NATURE CONSERVANCY 4200 22ND STREET, N.E. WASHINGTON 18, D. C.

REGIONAL NOTES

CALIFORNIA - Golden Gate

Plans of the Army Engineers for grazing sheep on Forts Cronkhite, Barry, and Baker at the Golden Gate near San Francisco have been dropped, according to the Commanding General of the Sixth Army. The area is an unusual preserve of native grassland and coastal brush, and the proposed grazing had been widely protested. The Army announced that its withdrawal of the plan was "due to the fluctuating nature of military operations and our inability to forecast the national defense requirements for use of the land during a period of international tension".

CONNECTICUT - Beckley Bog

Contributions to the Beckley Bog project have now reached the $21,000 cost of the initial unit. Actual transfer of the land has been postponed until July 12 so that details relating to the land survey can be taken care of. The Beckley Bog Committee is currently arranging for the acquisition of some adjoining acreage and for that purpose an increase in the project goal to $25,000 has been authorized.

FLORIDA - Myakka River State Park

This largest of Florida state parks features the river and lake from which it takes its name, a rookery of wading birds, and semitropical flora and fauna. It is 17 miles ESE of Sarasota and consists of 26,898 acres.

In the May issue of the NEWS we told of a threat to this park in the form of an easement granted to the Florida Power and Light Company for construction of a power transmission line across the park. The easement was executed by the Florida Board of Parks and Historical Memorials. We concluded by saying that recent word had been received that the power company had relinquished the right of way by changing the alignment to use the Atlantic Coast Line right of way.

A reader has pointed out this statement is misleading. We are told that the railroad right of way is abandoned and actually is a part of the park and that the power company used 3.5 miles of the right of way plus about 2.5 miles on which they cut the trees. Also, before public protest, the company had cleared 2.5 miles which they did not use. In addition, we understand that the State Park Board acted on the matter without consulting the Advisory Council of Myakka River State Park which the State Park Board had appointed.

It has been claimed the state park law required granting of the easement. Our reading of the law as quoted does not lead to this conclusion, but if this is the legal connotation of "The board is authorized to grant easements - - -", then it seems the next step for park-minded Floridans is to get the law changed.

ILLINOIS - Illinois Chapter

During the 50th Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science at Normal on May 3, Illinois Conservancy members gathered for their annual luncheon meeting. The most significant step taken by the group was its decision to reorganize into an official Illinois Chapter of the Conservancy. The session also included reports of the past year's activities and of projects currently under way.

Robert A. Bullington was elected as Chairman of the new chapter, with Donald T. Ries as vice-chairman and Hurst H. Shoemaker and Harold C. Fritts as secretary and treasurer.

The group discussed and endorsed the Volo and Wauconda Bog projects in northern Illinois. Both bogs are located in Lake County about 40 miles northwest of Chicago. The Volo and Wauconda Bogs Committee is headed by Dr. Julian A. Steyermark and Mr. Cyrus Mark and includes Miss Marjorie Carlson, Mr. Karl Bartel, Dr. Bullington, Miss Kate Staley, Mr. Floyd Swink, Mr. Albert M. Fuller, and others.

MARYLAND - Battle Creek Preserve

A series of 20 slides and a short 16 mm. movie of the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp with accompanying explanatory material are available for use at club meetings or for school instruction purposes. Please let the central office know as far in advance as possible of the date of your showing. With $2,500 remaining to be raised, Battle Creek still needs your help.

MASSACHUSETTS - Cape Cod

A proposal to make a national seashore out of the 33-mile ocean front of Cape Cod from Nauset Inlet at Orleans to Race Point in Provincetown has aroused some opposition among business interests, but much approval from conservation-minded persons. National Park Service plans call for preservation of the 15,000 acre area as much in its natural state as possible. The proposal has the backing of State Commissioner of Natural Resources Francis W. Sargent. In addition to its great value as a park, the preserve would help check the erosion resulting from destruction of its vegetative cover by developers.

MISSOURI - Missouri Chapter

The first annual meeting of the Missouri Chapter was held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, on May 4, 1957. The extremely fine program included participants from the University faculty, the Missouri Conservation Commission, and the State Federation of Garden Clubs.

During the very full day session, such subjects as "Our Obligation of Primeval Land Conservation," "Plant Extinction Threats in Missouri," "Select Habitat Conditions in Missouri," "The Scientific Value of Natural Areas," and the "Action Program of the Missouri Chapter" were presented by representatives of this variety of public and private conservation interests. Featured speaker on the evening banquet program was Dr. Paul B. Sears, Conservancy Governor and Chairman of the Yale Conservation Program.

One of the Chapter's big projects at this time is helping the University of Missouri to raise funds for the

acquisition of Tucker Prairie in Callaway County near Kingdom City. This remnant of the original prairie has been extensively used both for research and field trips by the soils, forestry and biology departments of the University. It is the only area in central Missouri where the native prairie flora is present on a scale adequate for ecological study. As a new group, the "show-me state" organization is setting high standards for chapter work.

NEW MEXICO - White Sands National Monument

White Sands National Monument in New Mexico will soon have guided missiles dropping in on its scenic beauty if the Army has its way. Roads and trails will be built to retrieve these missiles. The Monument will lose more than 2500 acres from its northeast corner. And camera installations and telephone lines will appear within its boundaries.

Like unto Wichita, the Army's battle cry is "we need this for national defense" and "millions of dollars have already been spent here."

NEW YORK - Tivoli Lakes Sanctuary

By a unanimous resolution, the Common Council of Albany on April 15 set aside a 35 acre tract of land directly behind one of the city's high schools as the "Tivoli Lakes Nature Study Sanctuary". The area was formerly a city park but it has been abandoned to dumping and illegal hunting for a generation past. It has small ponds and a fine cattail marsh with muskrat houses and other animal retreats.

Under the leadership of members of the Eastern New York Chapter and with the enthusiastic support of school and city administrators, this sadly abused area is being reclaimed. Over 500 trees and many shrubs were planted on the tract by students from all Albany public schools and Boy Scouts on Arbor Day. Two nature trails are being plotted. Excellent publicity was given the project by the Albany TIMES UNION and the KNICKERBOCKER NEWS.

Long Island - Tilton Nature Preserve

A nature preserve on the northerly shore of Big Fresh Pond at North Sea, Southampton, has been created through the generosity of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Tilton of Southampton, the Long Island Chapter announced on May 1. Donation of the 20-acre tract came after the Chapter had completed arrangements for appropriate management provisions. The area, which becomes the ninth preserve in Conservancy ownership, is immediately adjacent to Elliston Park, belonging to the township.

Long Island - Fire Island

The Citizens Committee for the Fire Island National Park has been formed and a public meeting was held on March 1 to promote the idea of preserving the vacant lands of Fire Island on the south shore of Long Island. Several Conservancy members are participating in the Committee, including Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, Chairman of the Long Island Chapter, and Mrs. James N. Dunlop and Mr. Robert B. Lea, Chapter Trustees. The Fire Island proposal follows the listing of this area as one of primary importance in the Seashore Survey report published by the National Park Service.

Butler Memorial Sanctuary Addition

A rocky ravine and several hundred feet of frontage along a small brook have been added to the Arthur W. Butler Memorial Sanctuary in Westchester County. The 20-acre tract was presented to the Conservancy on May 2, 1957 by Walter Huber of Sharon, Connecticut. This splendid addition to the Sanctuary brings its total size to 250 acres. The Sanctuary was established in December 1954 through the generosity of Mrs. Arthur W. Butler. A naturalist will devote full time to the educational program of the area this summer.

Lake George

The Lake George Protective Association, Bolton Landing, New York, has recently issued a 12-page pictorial pamphlet entitled, "Lake George--A Mill Pond, Previously Unlawful But Now Authorized by the Legislature." Ten full page pictures show the great damage done by high water to more than 87 islands in Lake George. The State of New York, the bulletin maintains, spent 14 years in the courts to establish its right to control lake levels to prevent this sort of damage. Yet the 1957 legislature passed a law authorizing a high lake level which will jeopardize the islands and places control under the Department of Public Works with authority to lower the Lake without limit for six months of each year.

Although the measure was pushed through the legislature rapidly at the end of the session without public hearing, at least five local conservation organizations attempted to point out the bad features of the bill to the administration. The bulletin concludes that the new law is unconstitutional and should be repealed.

Conservancy members will note that our Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary is directly affected by this problem.

WASHINGTON - Olympic National Park

In October 1956 the National Park Service announced a new national park timber policy putting an end to the timber salvage logging operations that had been in progress in the Olympic National Park for several years (see THE LIVING WILDERNESS #58, Fall & Winter 1956-57).

Now a recent blowdown of Douglas-fir and hemlock in the Park has created a first test for the new policy. Under the rules, problems arising from blowdowns must be referred to the national office of the Park Service for review. The proposal in this case included removal of all logs from the 25 acre Douglas-fir blowdown area to control the Douglas-fir beetle. Since the flight of beetles is said to begin about July 1, the clean-up has presumably been put into effect by now.

An entomologist has predicted to the Park Service that without such treatment most of the standing trees in the concentrated blowdown area would be killed by the beetles and that this would be followed by heavy killing in sizeable patches within one-fourth to one-half mile of

Olympic National Park (cont.):
the problem area and scattered killing up to a mile or more from the blowdown before the attack in standing green trees subsides.

In response to a call for comments by interested individuals, Dr. Paul Shepard, Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, wrote the Director of the National Park Service that "- - -There will undoubtedly be those like myself who object to (logging the blowdown area) on the grounds that the natural processes and fauna which the parks are supposed to preserve include the whole syndrome of parasite buildup and crash. - - -

"Presumably, in previous years it has been established that salvage has prevented an unknown number of living trees from becoming infected from the blowdown areas. The life history of the beetle is reasonably well known. But has a team of observers ever watched a blowdown and the surrounding forest without salvage? Such a group should not only have economic entomologists and foresters who, after all, may be oriented toward artificial controls and production of tree crops, but ornithologists mammalogists, students of the diseases to which the beetles themselves are subject, botanists, and other naturalists concerned with population fluxes and overall ecological relationships.

" - - - On the whole, very little comprehensive research has been done in the 'rain forest'. Here is an opportunity in a natural area to study the ramifying effects of a blowdown and to determine the roles of other animals and plants in the population dynamics of the beetles. A team of naturalists studying this whole community might learn much that would aid tree-farmers in areas outside the parks, besides providing in itself an exciting and valuable advance in our understanding of the forest as a whole. - - - Perhaps it would take several seasons of work, but the ecological monograph which it would produce would be a valuable asset to the concept of preservation as well as the natural history of Olympic National Park.

"The outcome might vindicate our position that most impending epidemics should go uncontrolled...or it might convince us that we stand to lose too much and that salvage is necessary. In either case the parks and Park Service will gain in the long run."

The Park Service apparently has decided against this recommendation since latest word is that the clean-up has been authorized.

CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING

The Nature Conservancy will hold its annual membership meeting at Stanford University, Stanford, California, near Palo Alto, on August 29, 1957, in conjunction with other meetings sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The full day meeting will include a business session and a program on the problems of natural area preservation. As a principal part of the business session, members will elect new officers and eight new members of the Board of Governors.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Joseph J. Hickey, Chairman, William A. Niering, and Daniel Smiley, has announced a slate of candidates for the elective positions to be filled at the meeting. Nominations for any office may also be made by any member by letter to the Secretary, addressed to 4200 22nd Street, Northeast, Washington 18, D. C., and mailed no later than July 19. The consent of the nominee shall be obtained before his name is presented.

The proposed slate is as follows:

President: Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, Professor of Botany, Connecticut College, New London.
Vice-President: Dr. Robert W. Schery, Director, Better Lawn and Turf Institute, Marysville, Ohio.
Secretary: Mr. Elting Arnold, Assistant General Counsel, U. S. Treasury Dept.; residence, Chevy Chase, Md.
Treasurer: Mr. G. Flippo Gravatt, Senior Pathologist, U. S. Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland.
Members at Large of the Board of Governors:
Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg, Pacific Vegetation Project, U. S. Geological Survey; residence, Falls Church, Va.
Mr. Robert J. Hamershlag, Hamershlag, Borg & Co., New York City; residence, Katonah, New York.
Mr. Erard Matthiessen, Stamford, Connecticut; retired architect.
Mrs. Fred A. Mauntel, Washington, Missouri; Recording Secretary, National Council of State Garden Clubs.
Dr. Thomas Morley, Professor of Botany, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.
Dr. Adolph M. Stebler, Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Stillwater.
Mr. Alvin G. Whitney, Delmar, New York; retired Assistant Director, New York State Museum.

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

The members of the Nature Conservancy invite you to join in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of $3 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of $100 or more to life membership and one of $1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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